

April 23, 2023

Co-Chair Lew Frederick  
Oregon State Senate  
900 Court St. NE, S-419  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chair Susan McLain  
Oregon House of Representatives  
900 Court St. NE, H-493  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Frederick and Representative McLain:

I am writing to you as a graduate research assistant and PhD student to indicate my **support for two important statewide public service programs at Portland State University: Oregon Solutions**, the state's program for the collaborative implementation of community-based solutions, and **Oregon Consensus**, part of the Dispute Resolution budget. I have witnessed how these programs offer valuable training to students, insights to other practitioners, and solutions for communities. Thank you for recognizing the significance of these programs, and I urge you to restore their funding to the full continuing level of service (CSL) as in the Governor's budget.

For the past academic year, I have written about and presented research about Oregon Consensus's work in the Columbia Basin Partnership. The lessons learned from this project advanced scholarship in the fields of public administration and community-based natural resource management, and this research has been well-received by other governance researchers and practitioners. I have also been part of a team working to build public engagement in support of the statewide, interagency update to the Integrated Water Resources Strategy. In this project, I have learned how to nurture new relationships, strengthen existing partnerships, and the effectiveness of a collaborative approach. As someone who works at the intersection of theory and practice, the unique training offered by these programs has been invaluable to my professional and academic development.

Oregon Consensus and Oregon Solutions are programs that provide responsive, sustainable, and lasting community-based solutions statewide. Equally important are the training and research opportunities provided by these programs to nurture future generations of practitioners who will continue working on the complex challenges that impact Oregonians statewide. I urge the legislature to recognize the value of these programs, and I hope that you will continue to support them.

Sincerely,

Thien-Kim Bui

CC:

Senator Michael Dembrow  
Senator Suzanne Weber  
Representative Tracy Cramer  
Representative Emily McIntire  
Representative Hoa Nguyen  
Representative Ricki Ruiz